






RANGEFINDER USING COLLECTED SPOT SPREAD AND INSERT SHADOWING

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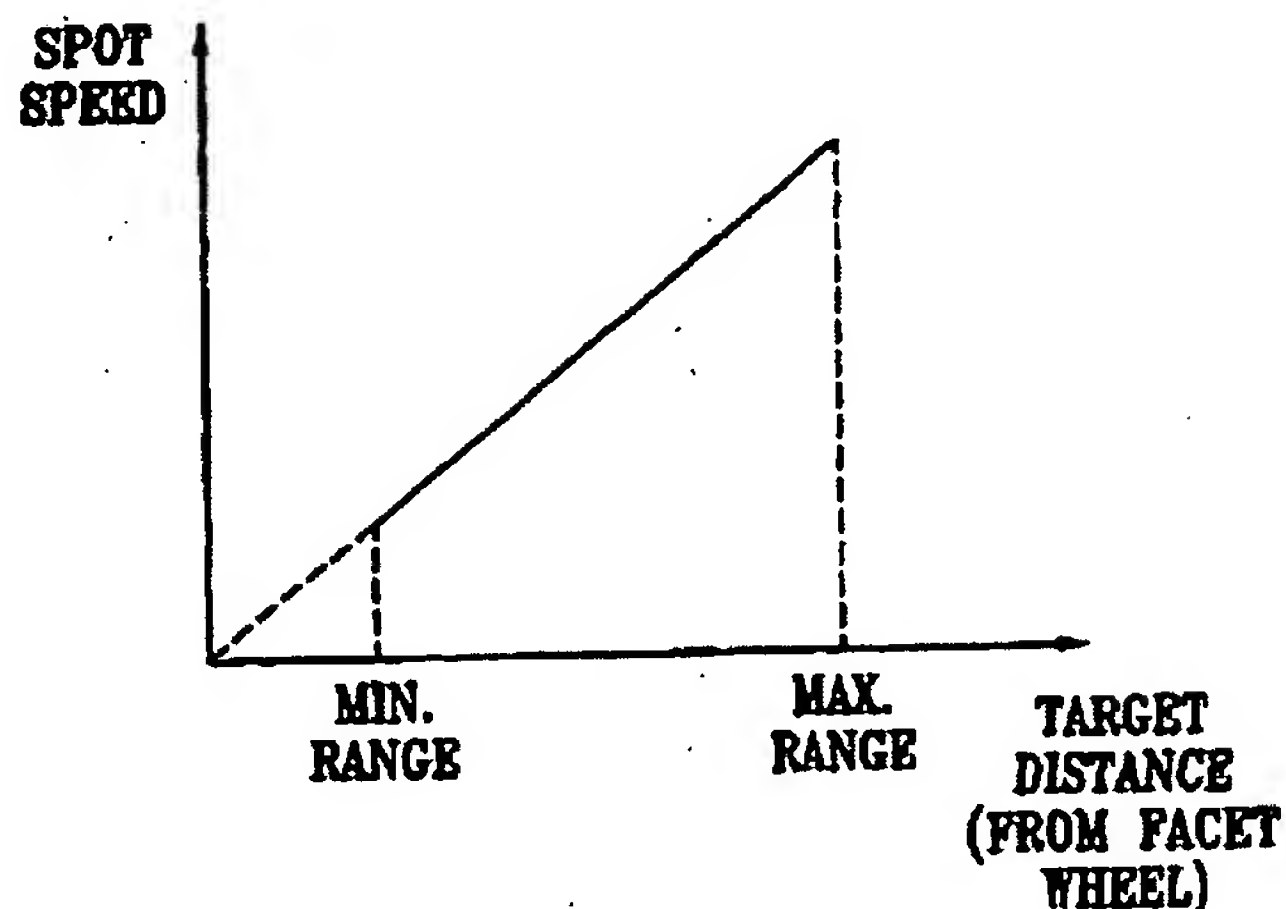
Cited documents:

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Abstract of WO0129576

A rangefinder comprises a light collection system including a lens or mirror. Two or more photodetectors are positioned at a detector plane, with one of the photodetectors aligned with the optical axis, and the other photodetector (if one) adjacent thereto or (if several) arranged in a linear sequence emanating outward from the center photodetector. A light-blocking element, which may be a folding mirror for targeting an outgoing laser beam, is positioned along the optical axis so as to block light from reaching the center photodetector under certain conditions dependent upon the target range. When the target is distant, all or most of the collected light is focused on the center photodetector, and as the target approaches the lens or mirror the spot spread increases, and more light is focused on the side detector(s) and less on the center photodetector.



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